
Election Connection Vol 6- 2026

We are in the final prep of absentee ballots. By the time you read this all the absentee ballots will be ready to be mailed to “ACTIVE” voters on Friday May 8, 2026. We cannot stress enough how important it is to make sure to check all your information and make sure there is updated information at the election office. It is best to do this on or before 5:00 pm May 4, 2026. Absentee ballots are also made accessible on May 4 for in person voting as MCA 13-17-212 requires the availability 30 days prior to the election. Late registration begins on May 5, 2026 which means those wishing to register or change their voter information and vote in the Primary election may only do so by showing up in person at the election office to obtain their ballot before 5pm on Friday May 29, 2026, Saturday May 30, 2026, or before noon on June 2, 2026. (MCA 13-2-301, 13-2-304)

Some other important information to reflect on for the Primary is as follows:

Have you heard of the terminology ExpressVote? Are you wondering what it is? ExpressVote is available to serve every eligible voter, including those with special needs. It is a voting system marker that has a touchscreen display, audio-tactile keypad, and headphones to allow voters of all types and ages to vote independently. The voter can either use the touch screen or the audio-tactile keypad to mark their selections (even write-in a name!). Once the machine marking is finished, the selected choices are shown and the opportunity to make changes before printing is given to the elector. The voter verifies and accepts the ballot and prints. Those who have used the ExpressVote have commented on how easy and efficient it is. Public Testing will be May 4, 2026, at 8 am and June 1, 2026. An ExpressVote is available for use at the courthouse starting on May 4, 2026, and will be at each polling place on the day of election.

Another important reminder about the Primary Election is that there are 3 ballots: Democratic, Libertarian, and Republican. You may only vote **ONE** ballot. The **only** candidates that will appear on all three ballots are those that are running as **non-partisan**: Supreme Court Justice #4 and District Judge District 7, Dept. 2. For our local election the **only** candidates appearing on the Republican ballot are the Commissioners District 1. Even though this position is linked to District 1 it is important for the voters to understand that Prairie County votes “**at large**”. This means **ALL** voters of Prairie County can vote on every commissioner’s race, no matter which district they live in.

To view updates on elections and election connection articles please go to www.prairiecounty.org/election then click on the link to view. There is a myriad of information and resources available, and we are happy to help with any questions or concerns. Please make sure you are using trustworthy sources. We will be updating information on our Facebook page: Prairie County Clerk’s Office as well as: Happenings of Prairie County and Voices of Prairie County.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact our office. We are more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Our Clerk email is clerksoffice@prairiecountymt.gov.

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